

Shady-Wet Native Perennial Garden Kit

For garden areas with full to partial shade most of the day; wet for long periods, there may be standing water for several hours or a few days after heavy precipitation/snow melt; poorly drained.



Blue flag iris *Iris virginica* var. *shrevei*

Height: 2' – 3'

Spacing at planting: 1' A single rhizome will expand into a clump of multiple within a few year's time. Allow space for this expansion.

Flower period: June – July. Blue flowers develop into upright, brown seed pods.

Collect seed: Aug – Sept. Sow seeds in ground in fall or stratify in a refrigerator for 120 days before sowing in spring.

Notes on care: Easy. Stands upright, needs no staking or trimming, leaves are beautiful for the entire growing season. Brown seed pods are attractive. Leaves can be cut back in late fall and composted.

Propagation: Easy to divide a cluster of the thick rhizomes with a sharp spade in early fall (or early spring) and transplant. Blue flag iris does fine in areas with full to part sun as well as part shade.



Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica*

Height: 2' – 3'

Spacing at planting: 12" – 36"

Flower period: late July – Sept. Blue flowers in tall spikes, attractive to bumblebees and butterflies.

Collect seed: Oct. seeds are tiny. A tiny weevil is common in Lobelia flower seed capsules. Separate seeds from seed capsules as soon as you collect them, before weevils eat the seeds. Seeds need light to germinate so they should be sown or allowed to

fall naturally on open ground and not covered. They need a period of moist, cold stratification in order to break dormancy and should be sown in fall/early winter. If seeds will not be sown in fall, store them in a cold place. 60 days before planting, mix them with moist sand (not wet) in a ziplock bag and keep in the refrigerator. Giant blue lobelia will reseed naturally in moist soils but rarely forms dense clusters. Transplants easily. (same propagation for the other Lobelia: Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*)

Notes on care: Will bloom well even in full shade. Will also do fine in areas with part sun. Rabbits may eat young seedlings so best to keep an eye on them until plants grow taller.



Star sedge *Carex radiata*

Height: 8" – 12" This sedge grows in distinct, round-headed clumps that sometimes loosely splay when seed is ripening. Leaves are thin, finely textured, bright green.

Spacing at planting: 1'.

Flower period: April –May

Seed Collection: July. Seed is ready to collect when it falls away into your hand when gently pulled.

Propagation: Seed should be shown immediately, fresh, for best germination. Seeds need light to germinate, therefore they need open ground and should not be covered. Fresh sown seeds will germinate the following spring.

Notes on care: Best to wait until late winter/early spring to trim back previous year's tan leaves because they provide protection from frost heaving for the sedge's roots. They also provide cover for soil life, thereby providing food for ground-foraging birds in those lean winter and early spring months. Old, tan leaves can be pulled off gently or trimmed back with sharp hand snips. They make a good, clean soil mulch or they can be composted.

Propagation: Side shoots can be pared off with a soil knife and transplanted elsewhere in your garden in spring, or shared with another gardener. *Carex radiata* is also easily propagated by seed. This plant does not invade nearby turf, either by root or by seed.